

# Connected

## Giving Back!

What does GIVING BACK have to do the MVP experience? What exactly am I expected to give?

GIVING BACK is an understanding that life and community is not about the almighty I, but it is about We!

One of the things that I believe is missing today in our North American culture is thinking about others on a day to day basis. We are great at coming to the rescue when there are the Katrina's and the 9-11's of life, but just in the day to day mode of life, we are more self-reliant and self-focused than we are other's focused and we-centered. GIVING BACK is not something we should think of as doing once in a while so that we feel good, but it should become part of who we are and what we are about in our everyday life.

I was on a trip to the Carribean island of Jamaica a few years ago where I saw a sign that read:

*"Remember that love your neighbor thing? I meant it! -God."* Robert Burns wrote, *"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."* GIVING BACK is about seeing each other the same way as we see ourselves, as a person with needs, desires, emotions, and the ability to make a difference in another person's life. The center of GIVING BACK hinges on this one important glimpse of truth by Albert Schweitzer:

*"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only*

*thing!"* Being an example in GIVING BACK starts with one person. If you have seen the movie Pay it Forward, you will get this concept. Nothing starts without first someone being an example. Influencing the spark of giving in the lives of others is a need in order to begin to GIVE BACK as a way of life.

**L**ife's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?

~Martin Luther King Jr